

By the King.

A Proclamation concerning the bringing in of Whale-fannes into his Maieslies Dominions, &c.



AS Wee conceiue, it cannot be construed by any Our doings or proceedings, that wee are caried with any ambitious or vnjust appetite, to conet that which appertaineth to others: So it shalbe alwayes Our desire and resolution, to nourish and maintaine the happy estate of Our louing Subiects, and the honour of Our Kingdomes; not onely in the same degree, in the which we haue receiued them; but likewise with that increase and aduancement, whereof the prouidence of Almighty God by iust occasions shal put meanes and opportunities into Our hands; and in nothing more (next vnto the true worship of God, and the administration of Justice) then in the maintenance and increase of Nauigation, wherein Our kingdomes both by situation, strength of shipping, skill of Marriners, valew of Commanders at Sea, and many honourable discoueries and exploits, haue for long time, and more and more of late time flourished. And whereas Our Company of Merchants for the discouery of new Trades, commonly called the Muscouia Company, haue with their great costs and charges, of late yeeres discouered a Land, which they call by the name of King James his Newland, to the increase of Nauigation and Marriners; and haue further by their care and industry entred into a trade of fishing for the Whale, and procured Biscainers, skilfull in striking the Whale, to teach and instruct the English Nation therein: And whereas a principall part of the benefit of the Whale-fishing consisteth in the commoditie of Whale-fannes, imported into Our Kingdomes; And that experience already sheweth, that Our owne subiects in their returne from that Fishing, are able to furnish and serue Our Kingdomes with sufficient quantity for the vse of Our louing subiects: it being also a matter of delicacie, & rather to be considered as it may concerne Nauigation, then in it selfe: we haue therfore thought fit for the better encouragement of the said Company, and other Our Subiects, in seruices of like nature, to prohibite all Aliens and strangers, and also Our owne subiects, (except the said Muscouia Merchants, & that in their ioynt stocke) to bring hereafter into any Our Kingdomes the said commodity.

wherefore we do by these presents, straitly and expressely forbid and prohibite, all Aliens and strangers whatsoener, and also all Our owne Subiects (others then the said Muscouia Merchants, and that in their ioynt stocke) to bring into any Our kingdomes, and Dominions any Whale-fannes, vpon paine of Confiscation of the same, and of Our high indignation and displeasure, and of such further punishment, as shalbe meet to be inflicted vpon the offenders for their contempt in that behalfe: And we do further hereby charge and require all Our Customers, Comptrollers, Searchers & other Officers, and also the Farmors of Our Customes, and their ministers, carefully to attend euery one in their seuerall dueties, the execution of this Our Royall Proclamation, and in no wise to permit or suffer any Whale-fannes, either directly or indirectly, openly or priuately, to be brought into the Ports, or other places of any of Our kingdomes: And in case any be brought in, the same to seaze to Our vse, and by all other meanes to finde out, and informe of all offences tending to the breach of this Our Royall Proclamation.

Giuen at Wanssted the eleuenth day of September, in the twelfth yeere of Our Raigne of Great Britaine, France, and Ireland. 1614.

God saue the King.

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